

**REGULATION AND USE OF GRAYWATER AND
ALTERNATIVE ONSITE WATER****CHAPTER 545**

H.B. No. 1902

AN ACT**relating to the regulation and use of graywater and alternative onsite water.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 341.039, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 341.039. ~~[GRAYWATER]~~ **STANDARDS FOR GRAYWATER AND ALTERNATIVE ONSITE WATER.** (a) The commission by rule shall adopt and implement minimum standards for the *indoor and outdoor* use and reuse of *treated graywater and alternative onsite water* for:

- (1) irrigation and other agricultural purposes;
- (2) domestic use, to the extent consistent with Subsection (c);
- (3) commercial purposes; and
- (4) industrial purposes.

(a-1) *The standards adopted by the commission under Subsection (a)(2) must allow the use of graywater and alternative onsite water for toilet and urinal flushing.*

(b) The standards adopted by the commission under Subsection (a) must assure that the use of graywater or *alternative onsite water* is not a nuisance and does not *threaten human health or damage the quality of surface water and groundwater in this state.*

(b-1) *The commission by rule may adopt and implement rules providing for the inspection and annual testing of a graywater or alternative onsite water system by the commission.*

(b-2) *The commission shall develop and make available to the public a regulatory guidance manual to explain the rules adopted under this section.*

(c) The commission may not require a permit for the domestic use of less than 400 gallons of graywater or *alternative onsite water* each day if the water ~~[graywater]~~:

- (1) originates from a private residence;
- (2) is used by the occupants of that residence for gardening, composting, ~~[or]~~ landscaping, or *indoor use as allowed by rule, including toilet or urinal flushing*, at the residence;
- (3) is collected using a system that *may be diverted* ~~[overflows]~~ into a sewage collection or on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system;
- (4) is, *if required by rule*, stored in surge tanks that:
 - (A) are clearly labeled as nonpotable water;
 - (B) restrict access, especially to children; and
 - (C) eliminate habitat for mosquitoes and other vectors;
- (5) uses piping clearly identified as a nonpotable water conduit, including identification through the use of purple pipe, purple tape, or similar markings;
- (6) is generated without the formation of ponds or pools of graywater or *alternative onsite water*;
- (7) does not create runoff across the property lines or onto any paved surface; and
- (8) is distributed by a surface or subsurface system that does not spray into the air.

(d) Each builder is encouraged to:

- (1) install plumbing in new housing in a manner that provides the capacity to collect graywater or *alternative onsite water* from all allowable sources; and

(2) design and install a subsurface graywater or *alternative onsite water* system around the foundation of new housing in a way that minimizes foundation movement or cracking.

(e) In this section:

(1) “*Alternative onsite water*” means rainwater, air-conditioner condensate, foundation drain water, storm water, cooling tower blowdown, swimming pool backwash and drain water, reverse osmosis reject water, or any other source of water considered appropriate by the commission.

(2) “*Graywater*”~~[-“graywater”]~~ means wastewater from clothes-washing machines, showers, bathtubs, hand-washing lavatories, and sinks that are not used for disposal of hazardous or toxic ingredients. The term does not include wastewater:

(A) ~~[(1)]~~ that has come in contact with toilet waste;

(B) ~~[(2)]~~ from the washing of material, including diapers, soiled with human excreta; or

(C) ~~[(3)]~~ from sinks used for food preparation or disposal.

SECTION 2. Section 366.012(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To assure the effective and efficient administration of this chapter, the commission shall:

(1) adopt rules governing the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems, including rules concerning the:

(A) review and approval of on-site sewage disposal systems; and

(B) temporary waiver of a permit for an emergency repair; and

(2) adopt rules under this chapter that:

(A) encourage the use of economically feasible alternative techniques and technologies for on-site sewage disposal systems that can be used in soils not suitable for conventional on-site sewage disposal;

(B) address the separation of graywater, as defined by Section 341.039, in a residence served by an on-site sewage disposal system; ~~[and]~~

(C) *allow for an adjustment in the size required of an on-site sewage disposal system if the system is used in conjunction with a graywater system that complies with the rules adopted under Section 341.039; and*

(D) require on-site sewage disposal systems, including risers and covers, installed after September 1, 2012, to be designed to prevent access to the system by anyone other than:

(i) the owner of the system; or

(ii) a person described by Section 366.071(a) or (b).

SECTION 3. Section 26.0311, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(a) In this section, “graywater” *has the meaning provided by Section 341.039, Health and Safety Code* ~~[means wastewater from clothes-washing machines, showers, bathtubs, handwashing lavatories, and sinks that are not used for disposal of hazardous or toxic ingredients. The term does not include wastewater:~~

~~[(1) that has come in contact with toilet waste;~~

~~[(2) from the washing of material, including diapers, soiled with human excreta; or~~

~~[(3) from sinks used for food preparation or disposal].~~

(b-1) *The standards adopted by the commission under Subsection (b)(2) must allow the use of graywater for toilet and urinal flushing.*

SECTION 4. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall adopt the stan-

dards required by Sections 341.039 and 366.012, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, and Section 26.0311, Water Code, as amended by this Act, not later than January 1, 2017.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 28, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1902 on May 21, 2015: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 16, 2015.

Effective June 16, 2015.

DEADLINE FOR COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE

CHAPTER 546

H.B. No. 1953

AN ACT

relating to the deadline for counties and municipalities to provide notice of a proposed property tax rate.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 140.010(f), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) A county or municipality shall:

(1) provide the notice required by Subsection (d) or (e), as applicable, not later than *the later of September 1 or the 30th day after the first date that the taxing unit has received each applicable certified appraisal roll* by:

(A) publishing the notice in a newspaper having general circulation in:

- (i) the county, in the case of notice published by a county; or
- (ii) the county in which the municipality is located or primarily located, in the case of notice published by a municipality; or

(B) mailing the notice to each property owner in:

- (i) the county, in the case of notice provided by a county; or
- (ii) the municipality, in the case of notice provided by a municipality; and

(2) post the notice on the Internet website of the county or municipality, if applicable, beginning not later than *the later of September 1 or the 30th day after the first date that the taxing unit has received each applicable certified appraisal roll* and continuing until the county or municipality adopts a tax rate.

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to an ad valorem tax year that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 138, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 16, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2016.